

Richard J. Donohoe  
23 Tweed Road  
Branford, CT 06405

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
1305-East-West Highway  
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Gentlemen/Ladies:

I am writing to express my complete opposition to the Islander East Pipeline Project on the basis of very real safety concerns.

In the past 15 years in the United States there have been 3,184 reported gas pipeline incidents (accidents) resulting in the deaths of 328 people.

Our home is located approximately 1200 feet from the proposed route. A Tilcon spur (not the path of the pipeline) runs about 300 feet along our three acre property. We have a 30 year relationship with the railroad, and they have always tried to be good neighbors. We have experienced not 150 feet from our house a derailment, and later, a brush fire on the track caused by train wheel sparks. This is a heavily wooded area.

What seems to be generally overlooked in the nearly unanimous local condemnation of the proposal is that the most affected entity, the Tilcon Company, is adamantly opposed to the project for both safety and operational reasons.

Denied by State of Connecticut authorities, the patriots at Islander East petitioned the Department of Commerce that national security interests were at stake. Their pleading was bucked to the Defense Department, and on April 29, 2003, the response from Mr. Philip W. Grone, Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, was "We have reviewed the appeal and cannot conclude that a national defense or other national security interest would be significantly impaired if the project were not permitted to go forward as proposed".

Yours truly,



Richard J. Donohoe